III. REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending in this application. Applicants do not acquiesce in the correctness of the rejections and reserve the right to present specific arguments regarding any rejected claims not specifically addressed. Further, Applicants reserve the right to pursue the full scope of the subject matter of the original claims in a subsequent patent application that claims priority to the instant application. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 6-8 and 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Kenton (U.S. Patent No. 6,845,507), hereafter "Kenton." Claims 3-5 and 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kenton in view of Shear (U.S. Patent No. 5,627,972), hereafter "Shear." Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections for the following reasons.

A. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1, 2, 6-8 and 12-14 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

With regard to the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection over Kenton, Applicants initially assert that the Office's rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is improper. 35 U.S.C. §102(b) states that a person shall be entitled to a patent unless,

> The invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of the application for patent in the United States.

However, the date of the Kenton Patent was January 18, 2005, and the date of publication of the Kenton application was March 21, 2002, neither of which is more than one year prior to May 31, 2000, the effective priority date of the present application. The Office cites no other patent or

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printed publication and no sale or public use of the Kenton reference. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Kenton is not a proper reference under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Applicants further request that the Office make of record the reason that it believes Kenton, which was filed after Applicants' foreign application, to be a valid prior art reference. For example, the Office has not indicated whether the provisional application on which Kenton is based (Kenton provisional) allegedly includes support for the subject matter used in the Office's rejections. In any event, Applicants respectfully request a copy of the Kenton provisional to review the Office's position. To this extent, Applicants reserve the right to present arguments against the Office's determination until the provisional application is made available for review.

Furthermore, Applicants assert that Kenton does not teach each and every feature of the claimed invention. For example, with respect to independent claims 1, 7, 13 and 14, Applicants submit that Kenton fails to teach, *inter alia*, transforming an input message in any of a plurality of formats. Instead, the messages used by the Kenton system to pass workflow instructions are in only one format, namely XeML messages that are written using Extensible Markup Language or XLM. Col. 7, lines 1-7. Nowhere does Kenton teach that the messages are in a plurality of formats. In contrast, the claimed invention includes "...transforming an input message in any of a plurality of formats." Claim 1. As such, the input message of the claimed invention is not simply in a single XeML format as are the messages used to pass workflow instructions in Kenton, but are rather in any of a plurality of formats. Thus, the messages of Kenton are not equivalent to the input messages of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicants request that the Office's rejection be withdrawn.

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With further respect to independent claims 1, 7, 13 and 14, Applicants submit that Kenton fails to teach, *inter alia*, representative samples of messages stored in said message log. Instead, the passages of Kenton cited by the Office teach: an XeML message that contains stages, translation maps, and message data (Col. 6, lines 56-67); reading XML data off the message queue, extracting the data, translating the data, and passing the translated data to an end system (Col. 11, lines 39-45); and entering translation rules into an XeML message (Col. 14, lines 27-47). However, nowhere in the cited passages or elsewhere does Kenton teach storing representative samples of the messages in a message log. In contrast, the claimed invention includes "...representative samples of messages stored in said message log." Claim 1. As such, the claimed invention exceeds the functionality described in the above cited passages of Kenton by storing representative samples of messages in a message log. Thus, above cited passages of Kenton do not teach the message log as included in the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Office withdraw its rejection.

With further respect to independent claims 1, 7, 13 and 14, Applicants respectfully submit that Kenton also fails to teach, *inter alia*, a statistical analysis. Instead, as argued above, the cited passages of Kenton merely teach the makeup of, processing of, and entering of translation rules into an XeML message. Col. 6, lines 56-67; col. 11, lines 39-45; col. 14, lines 27-47. Nowhere in the cited passages or elsewhere does Kenton teach analyzing messages stored in the message log to get a statistical analysis of the values of the message fields. The claimed invention, in contrast, includes "...analysing the message fields in the representative samples of messages stored in said message log to get a statistical analysis of the values of the message fields." Claim 1. As such, the statistical analysis as included in the claimed invention includes an analysis of

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the values of the message fields, rather than simply teaching the makeup, processing and entering of translation rules into an XeML message as in Kenton. Furthermore, unlike in Kenton, the representative samples of messages stored in the message log of the claimed invention are analysed to get a statistical analysis of the values of the message fields. For the above reasons, the features of Kenton cited by the Office do not teach the statistical analysis as included in the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejection be withdrawn.

With still further respect to independent claims 1, 7, 13 and 14, Applicants respectfully submit that Kenton also fails to teach, *inter alia*, responsive to said compatibility determination and said statistical analysis to select the best fit output message field into which to transform a given input message field. Instead, as stated above, the passages of Kenton cited by the Office merely teach the makeup of, processing of, and entering of translation rules into an XeML message. Col. 6, lines 56-67; col. 11, lines 39-45; col. 14, lines 27-47. No statistical analysis of representative message samples is used in the Kenton process. In contrast, the claimed invention includes "...responsive to said compatibility determination and said statistical analysis to select the best fit output message field into which to transform a given input message field." Claim 1. As such, the transformation as included in the claimed invention does not simply teach the makeup, processing, and entering of translation rules into an XeML message as do the passages in Kenton cited by the Office, but rather uses factors including statistical analysis to select the best output message field into which to transform a given input message field. This statistical analysis is arrived at through analysis of the message fields in the representative samples of messages stored in the message log. Thus, the cited features of Kenton are not equivalent to the selection of the best fit output message field using factors that include statistical analysis as

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included in the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Office withdraw its rejection.

With respect to dependent claims, Applicants herein incorporate the arguments presented above with respect to the independent claims from which the dependent claims depend. Furthermore, Applicants submit that all dependant claims are allowable based on their own distinct features. Since the cited art does not teach each and every feature of the claimed invention, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

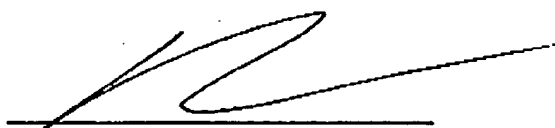## B. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 3-5 and 9-11 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

With regard to the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection over Kenton in view of Shear, Applicants respectfully submit that there is no motivation to modify Kenton with Shear. For example, Kenton does not teach that any of its messages have a higher priority than any other message. As such, there is no motivation in Kenton to incorporate the source object levels of Shear. In addition, the combined features of the cited references fail to teach or suggest each and every feature of the claimed invention. Applicants herein incorporate the arguments presented above with respect to the independent claims from which the dependent claims depend. Furthermore, Applicants submit that all dependant claims are allowable based on their own distinct features. Since the cited art does not teach each and every feature of the claimed invention, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

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IV. CONCLUSION

In light of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner require anything further to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 1, 2005

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